Income tax payees

2392. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of wage earners, central services officials, professionals, business houses in the country;

(b) whether all of them are paying income tax;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether Government has any strategy to bring them under the income tax net; and

(e) whether Government departments and private sectors etc. are applying different method to get rid of the income tax net?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) The income tax department does not maintain the details of the total number of wage earners, central services officials, professionals, business houses in the country because it is not necessary that every wage earner, central services official, professional, business house should be having taxable income. However, the total number of returns filed with the income tax department during the financial Year 2007-08 is 273.53 lakhs.

(b) and (c) No such information is available in view of (a) above. The income of such persons is taxable and mechanisms are there to collect taxes by way of Advance tax, Tax deduction at source (TDS), Self-assessment tax and through regular assessment, in accordance with the provisions of the Income Tax Act, 1961.

(d) Mechanisms already exist in the Income Tax Act, 1961 to deal with tax evasion.

(e) No such information is available.

Guidelines on One Time Settlement

2393. SHRI T.K. RANGARAJAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what are the guidelines issued, if any, by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in the matter of One Time Settlement (OTS) for realizing the Non-Performing Assets; and

(b) whether the RBI has put in place any mechanism to monitor such OTS cases in order to ensure that no undue favours are extended to the borrowers in finalizing the terms of OTS?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has advised the broad framework for compromise or negotiated settlement of non-performing assets (NPAs) of the banks. Within this broad framework, RBI has advised the banks to frame and implement their Board approved policies for recovery of loans incorporating the underlying principles for compromise and negotiated settlement including write-off in their NPA accounts. RBI has also advised the banks